

Alden House

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Staff Changes at the John Alden House Museum

The Alden Kindred of America, Inc., owners of the John Alden House Museum, have announced the appointment of 2 part-time employees. These individuals replace Elin Hagney who recently resigned to take a position at Barnes and Noble. Bob Edmunds of Rockland will serve as director and Linda Ashley of Marshfield as curator. Both individuals bring an extensive background to their new jobs.



Bob's association with the Alden Kindred and the John Alden House goes back over 30 years. He has served in many volunteer positions including president of the Alden Kindred for 4 years (1977-1982) and as Chairman of the Physical Properties Committee for many years after that. He was employed by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company for 35 years

until taking an early retirement in 1992, working there in the underwriting and data processing areas. Following his retirement, Bob and his wife, Gerda, sold their Duxbury home and spent 18 months based in Germany where they assisted in setting up family history libraries in several countries. Bob is also owner of Creative Technical Services, a small consulting company specializing in software development and technical writing. He is author of several books including The Prentice-Hall Encyclopedia of Information Technology. He has a keen interest in genealogy and has compiled a database of over 36,000 descendants of John and Priscilla Alden. Bob will handle the business operations of the Alden Kindred and Alden House museum, focusing on member services, fundraising and public relations.

Linda Ashley also brings with her great interest in history and genealogical research. While not a direct descendant of John Alden himself (her original home was Kentucky, where she lived until 1983), her grandchildren are and she does count Pocahontas and John Rolph among her own ancestors. Until recently, Linda worked at New



England Sinai Hospital in Stoughton where she has had experience in a wide variety of areas that will serve her well at the Alden House. She has extensive computer experience, has authored publications related to history and genealogy including a children's book, *Edmund K. Alden, The Pastor's Son*. She recently sponsored a project to identify and catalogue all the nearly 4,000 tombstones in Marshfield where she lives with her husband, Tom. As curator, Linda will directly oversee the operations at the Alden House Museum. This includes supervising the several docents who provide guided tours to visitors, managing the gift shop and conducting an outreach program that brings the Aldens and their colorful history into many local schools.

Visitors will have ample opportunity to meet Bob and Linda at the Alden House Museum this summer at a variety of special events. Many area residents have already visited the Alden House and witnessed the "dig" being conducted by professional archaeologists from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

On June 28 and 29, some 20 members of Wiley's Unit and Prescott's Battalion will set up an encampment on the Alden House grounds where they will reenact militia training exercises as they would have been held in Duxbury in 1775. Many Aldens played a prominent role in the Revolution. For example, Colonel Briggs Alden, owner of the Alden House at the time, saw no less than 4 of his sons march off with the first Minuteman Company, including Amherst Alden, 16 at the time, who was a fifer.